Urban Reliability Issues List June 7, 2000

The following is a summary of the issues presented by the M&I Contractors at the April 18, 2000 public meeting regarding the Urban Water Supply Reliability Policy.

1. If the minimum level for M&I reliability is 75%, what is the mechanism to determine the shortages in between 75% and 100%; i.e. 90%, 85%, 80%? Can we develop operation and allocation trigger mechanisms?

    a. The policy should provide specific criteria for predicting shortages; storage levels, inflows, and precipitation. What operating criteria should apply during shortages?

    b. Is there more than one equitable approach that may be utilized in different geographic locations? Should minimum level, trigger mechanisms, or operating criteria vary between geographic or hydrologic regions? What special provisions are needed for M&I users in areas or watersheds of origin or in Delta?

2. Terms needing definition and discussion of alternatives include:

    a. Historic use. How should it be defined and calculated? How should agricultural water use that has been or will be converted to M&I be accounted for? How should "other water" or supplemental water supplies be accounted for? Is an allocation system based on a "water needs analysis" possible or preferable?

    b. Human health and safety. How should it be defined and calculated? ? What is the criteria used to trigger this level? Should the same definitions and calculations be used for implementation of the 3406 (b) (2) and refuge water supply provisions? What should be the relationship to regulations or guidance of the California DOHS?

    c. Second Tier Water. What does the term "Second Tier Water" mean, and when is it available?

        i. Should there be a charge for this additional level of reliability?

        ii. Should there be a CVP water bank similar to the State's water bank?

3. How will a contractor's water conservation efforts be measured? What is the baseline and what is the metric to measure water conservation in the contractor's service area? What is meant by the term "extraordinary water conservation?"

4. What are the NEPA requirements for the Reliability Policy?

5. How can the Reliability Policy be implemented to minimize the impacts on agricultural contractors?

Process for finalizing Urban Water Reliability Policy

1. The "issues list" be finalized within one week by Reclamation and distributed to all contractors, and ask if anyone wants to add to the list.

2. Reclamation and the contractors exchange issues papers within two weeks after issues list is distributed to all contractors. Two workshops be scheduled (each workshop will probably take 2 days):

    a. The first workshop should be 2 weeks after the exchange of issues papers and dedicated to discussing issues raised in papers;

    b. The second workshop should be no more than one month later and dedicated to review of the draft final urban reliability policy to be developed and circulated in advance (at least 1 week) to all contractors.